

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) A binding strap for securing a snowboard boot within a binding baseplate, the binding strap being mountable to the baseplate by a mounting strap and further being releasably connectable to an engagement strap extending from the baseplate, the binding strap comprising:

a flexible binding strap member configured and arranged to be connected to the engagement strap to adjust tightening of the binding strap about the boot when the boot is in the binding, said flexible binding strap member including a pocket which is configured and arranged to movably receive a first end of the mounting strap therein; and

the binding strap further comprising the mounting strap, said mounting strap having a first end configured and arranged to be received within said pocket, and a second end configured and arranged to be secured to the baseplate. The binding strap according to claim 2, wherein said mounting strap is a variable position mounting strap having a plurality of holes therein.

4. (Original) The binding strap according to claim 3, wherein said mounting strap is secured within said pocket by at least one fastener which extends through one of the plurality of holes within said mounting strap.

5. (Currently amended) The binding strap according to claim 23, wherein said flexible binding strap member includes an opening formed therein, said opening forming an entrance to said pocket and configured and arranged to receive said first end of said mounting strap.

6. (Currently amended) The binding strap according to claim 43, wherein said pocket is internally disposed within said flexible binding strap member.

7. (Currently amended) The binding strap according to claim 4₃, wherein said pocket is disposed along an inside portion of said flexible binding strap member.

8. (Currently amended) The binding strap according to claim 4₃, wherein said flexible binding strap member includes a buckle mounted to an outer portion thereof, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first end of the engagement strap.

9. (Currently amended) A binding strap for securing a snowboard boot within a binding baseplate, the binding strap being mountable to the baseplate by a mounting strap and further being releasably connectable to an engagement strap extending from the baseplate, the binding strap comprising:

a flexible binding strap member configured and arranged to be connected to the engagement strap to adjust tightening of the binding strap about the boot when the boot is in the binding, said flexible binding strap member including a pocket which is configured and arranged to movably receive a first end of the mounting strap therein; and

wherein said flexible binding strap member includes a buckle mounted to an outer portion thereof, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first end of the engagement strap, The binding strap according to claim 8, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the engagement strap for incremental adjustment of the engagement strap.

10. (Currently amended) The binding strap according to claim 4₃, wherein said flexible binding strap member is a unitary binding member.

11. (Currently amended) The binding strap according to claim 4₃, wherein said flexible binding strap member is curved so as to conform to the snowboard boot.

12. (Currently amended) The binding strap according to claim 2₃, further including a second pocket configured and arranged to receive a first end of a second mounting strap.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A strap for engaging a snowboarding boot, the strap being securable to a mounting strap and further being releasably connectable to an engagement strap, the strap comprising:

a flexible strap member configured and arranged to be connected to the engagement strap to adjust the relative positions of the flexible strap member and the engagement strap and to conform at least the flexible strap member to a portion of the surface of the snowboarding boot, said flexible strap member including a pocket which is configured and arranged to movably receive a first end of the mounting strap therein; and

the strap further comprising the mounting strap, said mounting strap having a first end configured and arranged to be received within said pocket, The strap according to claim 14, wherein said mounting strap is a variable position mounting strap having a plurality of holes therein.

16. (Original) The strap according to claim 15, wherein said mounting strap is secured within said pocket by at least one fastener which extends through one of the plurality of holes within said mounting strap.

17. (Currently amended) The strap according to claim 1415, wherein said flexible strap member includes an opening formed therein, said opening forming an entrance to said pocket and configured and arranged to receive said first end of said mounting strap.

18. (Currently amended) The strap according to claim 1315, wherein said pocket is internally disposed within said flexible strap member.

19. (Currently amended) The strap according to claim 1315, wherein said pocket is disposed along an inside portion of said flexible strap member.

20. (Currently amended) The strap according to claim 1315, wherein said flexible strap member includes a buckle mounted to an outer portion thereof, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first end of the engagement strap.

21. (Currently Amended) A strap for engaging a snowboarding boot, the strap being securable to a mounting strap and further being releasably connectable to an engagement strap, the strap comprising:

a flexible strap member configured and arranged to be connected to the engagement strap to adjust the relative positions of the flexible strap member and the engagement strap and to conform at least the flexible strap member to a portion of the surface of the snowboarding boot, said flexible strap member including a pocket which is configured and arranged to movably receive a first end of the mounting strap therein; and

wherein said flexible strap member includes a buckle mounted to an outer portion thereof, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first end of the engagement strap, The strap according to claim 20, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the engagement strap for incremental adjustment of the engagement strap.

22. (Currently amended) The strap according to claim 4315, wherein said flexible strap member is curved so as to conform to the snowboarding boot.

23. (Previously presented) A strap for engaging a snowboarding boot, the strap comprising:

a boot-engaging strap member configured and arranged to engage with a portion of the snowboarding boot, the boot-engaging strap member being releasably connectable to an engagement strap;

a mounting strap having a first end securable to said boot-engaging strap member; and wherein said boot-engaging strap member and said mounting strap are moveable relative to each other so that the length of said strap is selectively adjustable by a user; and wherein said mounting strap is releasably securable in one of a plurality of positions to said boot-engaging strap member by at least one fastener which extends through a corresponding hole disposed in at least one of said boot-engaging strap member and said mounting strap.

24. (Previously presented) The strap according to claim 23, wherein said strap is releasably connectable to an engagement strap, and wherein said boot-engaging strap member

includes a buckle mounted to an outer portion of said boot-engaging strap member, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first end of the engagement strap.

25. (Original) The strap according to claim 24, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the engagement strap for incremental adjustment of the engagement strap.

26. (Previously presented) The strap according to claim 23, wherein said boot-engaging strap member is a unitary strap member.

27. (Previously presented) The strap according to claim 23, wherein said boot-engaging strap member is pre-shaped so as to conform to the snowboarding boot.

28. (Original) The strap according to claim 23, wherein said mounting strap is a variable position mounting strap.

29. (Original) The strap according to claim 25, wherein said buckle is adjustably engagable with a plurality of serrations disposed on the first end of the engagement strap.

30-35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously presented) A binding strap for securing a snowboarding boot within a binding base, the binding strap being mountable to the base and releasably connectable to an engagement strap extending from the base, the binding strap comprising:

a boot-engaging strap member configured and arranged to be releasably connected to the engagement strap and to secure the snowboarding boot to the base, the boot-engaging strap member having a contour; and

a mounting strap having a first section releasably securable to said boot-engaging strap member via at least one fastener and a second section configured and arranged to engage the binding base, said first section being disposed closer to a first end of said mounting strap than to a second end of said mounting strap;

wherein said boot-engaging strap member and said mounting strap are moveable relative to each other so that a length of said binding strap is selectively adjustable by a user, at least one of said boot-engaging strap member and said mounting strap having a plurality of holes, each hole being adapted to receive one of the at least one fastener to releasably secure said first section of said mounting strap to said boot-engaging strap member; and

wherein, when said mounting strap is secured to said boot-engaging strap member, said first end of said mounting strap conforms to said contour of said boot-engaging strap member.

37. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 36, wherein said contour of said boot-engaging strap member conforms to a contour of the snowboarding boot when said boot-engaging strap member secures the snowboarding boot in the binding.

38. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 36, wherein said contour of said boot-engaging strap member is pre-shaped so as to conform to a contour of the snowboarding boot.

39. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 36, wherein said boot-engaging strap member includes a buckle mounted thereto, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first section of the engagement strap.

40. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 39, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the first section of the engagement strap for incremental adjustment of the binding strap.

41. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 40, wherein the first section of the engagement strap includes a plurality of serrations, and wherein said buckle is adjustably engagable with the plurality of serrations.

42. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 36, wherein a portion of said mounting strap is insertable through a portion of said boot-engaging strap

member such that when said mounting strap is secured to said boot-engaging strap member, said first end of said mounting strap conforms to said contour of said boot-engaging strap member.

43. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 36, further comprising means for, when said mounting strap is secured to said boot-engaging strap member, conforming said first end of said mounting strap to a contour of said boot-engaging strap member.

44. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 42, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes an opening, said portion of said mounting strap being insertable through said opening.

45. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 44, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes top and bottom walls that defines a top and a bottom of said opening.

46. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 45, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes sides extending between said top and bottom walls.

47. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 46, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes an end extending between said top and bottom walls so that said opening is open only on one end.

48. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 44, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes sides.

49. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 44, wherein said opening comprises a slit.

50. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 44, in combination with the binding.

51-55. (Canceled)

56. (Previously presented) A binding strap for securing a snowboarding boot within a binding base, the binding strap being mountable to the base and releasably connectable to an engagement strap extending from the base, the binding strap comprising:

a boot-engaging strap member configured and arranged to be releasably connected to the engagement strap and to secure the snowboarding boot to the binding;

a mounting strap having a first section releasably securable to said boot-engaging strap member and a second section configured and arranged to engage the binding base; and

at least two engagement elements to engage the mounting strap with the boot-engaging strap;

wherein said boot-engaging strap member and said mounting strap are moveable relative to each other so that the length of said binding strap is selectively adjustable by a user, at least one of said boot-engaging strap member and said mounting strap having a plurality of adjustment holes, each hole being adapted to receive one of the at least two engagement elements therethrough to adjustably engage the first section of said mounting strap with said boot-engaging strap member.

57. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 56, wherein said boot-engaging strap member includes a buckle mounted thereto, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first section of the engagement strap.

58. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 57, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the first section of the engagement strap for incremental adjustment of the engagement strap.

59. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 58, wherein the first section of the engagement strap includes a plurality of serrations and wherein said buckle is adjustably engagable with said plurality of serrations.

60. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 56, wherein each of said engagement elements comprises a fastener.

61. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 56, wherein each of said engagement elements comprises a screw.

62. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 56, wherein a portion of said mounting strap is insertable through a portion of said boot-engaging strap member.

63. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 62, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes an opening, said portion of said mounting strap being insertable through said opening.

64. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 63, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes top and bottom walls that define a top and a bottom of said opening.

65. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 64, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes sides extending between said top and bottom walls.

66. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 65, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes an end extending between said top and bottom walls so that said opening is open only on one end.

67. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 63, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes sides.

68. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 63, wherein said opening comprises a slit.

69. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 56, in combination with the binding.

70. (Previously presented) A binding strap for securing a snowboarding boot within a binding base, the binding strap comprising:

a binding strap member configured and arranged and to secure the snowboarding boot in the binding, the binding strap having a first end configured and arranged to be releasably connectable to the base, the binding strap member further having a second end; and

a mounting strap having a first section releasably securable with said second end of said binding strap member via at least one fastener and a second section configured and arranged to engage the binding base, at least one of said binding strap member and said mounting strap having a plurality of adjustment positions, at least one hole being adapted to receive a corresponding fastener to adjustably secure the first section of said mounting strap to said second end of said binding strap member in one of the plurality of adjustment positions, said binding strap member and said mounting strap being moveable relative to each other so that the length of said binding strap is selectively adjustable by a user;

wherein a portion of said mounting strap is insertable through a portion of said binding strap member.

71. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 70, wherein the binding includes an engagement strap mounted to the binding base at a first section of the engagement strap, and wherein said binding strap member includes a buckle mounted thereto, said buckle being configured and arranged to engage a second section of an engagement strap.

72. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 71, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the engagement strap for incremental adjustment of said binding strap.

73. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 72, wherein the first section of the engagement strap includes a plurality of serrations and wherein said buckle is adjustably engagable with the plurality of serrations.

74. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 70, wherein said portion of said mounting strap insertable through said portion of said binding strap member includes an end of said mounting strap, and wherein when said portion of said mounting strap is inserted through said portion of said binding strap member, said end of said mounting strap is maintained in close proximity to said binding strap member.

75. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 70, wherein said portion of said mounting strap insertable through said portion of said binding strap member includes an end of said mounting strap, and wherein when said portion of said mounting strap is inserted through said portion of said binding strap member, said end of said mounting strap conforms to a contour of said binding strap member.

76. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 70, wherein said portion of said mounting strap insertable through said portion of said binding strap member includes an end of said mounting strap, and wherein said binding strap further comprises means for, when said portion of said mounting strap is inserted through said portion of said binding strap member, maintaining said end of said mounting strap in close proximity to said binding strap member.

77. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 70, wherein said portion of said mounting strap insertable through said portion of said binding strap member includes an end of said mounting strap, and wherein said binding strap further comprises means for, when said portion of said mounting strap is inserted through said portion of said binding

strap member, conforming said end of said mounting strap to a contour of said binding strap member.

78. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 70, wherein said portion of said binding strap member includes an opening, and wherein said portion of said mounting strap is insertable through said opening.

79. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 78, wherein said portion of said binding strap member includes top and bottom walls that define a top and a bottom of said opening.

80. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 79, wherein said portion of said binding strap member includes sides extending between said top and bottom walls.

81. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 80, wherein said portion of said binding strap member includes an end extending between said top and bottom walls so that said opening is open only on one end.

82. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 78, wherein said portion of said binding strap member includes sides.

83. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 78, wherein said opening comprises a slit.

84. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 70, wherein the binding includes an engagement strap mounted to the binding base at a first section of the engagement strap, and wherein said binding strap member is releasably connectable to the engagement strap.

85. (Canceled)

86. (Currently amended) The strap according to claim 1315, wherein the strap is a binding strap member and wherein the flexible strap member is a flexible binding strap member configured and arranged to be securable with the mounting strap and releasably connected to the engagement strap to adjust tightening of the binding strap about the boot when the boot is in a binding.

87. (Previously presented) The strap according to claim 23, wherein the boot-engaging strap member cooperates with the mounting strap and is configured and arranged to cooperate with an engagement strap to secure the boot within a snowboard binding.

88-90. (Canceled)

91. (Currently amended) An apparatus for securing a snowboard boot within a binding baseplate, the apparatus being mountable to the baseplate by a first strap member and further being releasably connectable to second strap member extending from the baseplate, the apparatus comprising:

a flexible binding strap member configured and arranged to be connected to the second strap member to adjust tightening of the apparatus about the boot when the boot is in the binding, said flexible binding strap member including a pocket which is configured and arranged to movably receive a first end of the first strap member therein; and

the apparatus further comprising the first strap member, said first strap member having a first end configured and arranged to be received within said pocket, and a second end configured and arranged to be secured to the baseplate. The apparatus according to claim 90, wherein said first strap member is a variable position first strap member having a plurality of holes therein.

92. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 91, wherein said first strap member is secured within said pocket by at least one fastener which extends through one of the plurality of holes within said first strap member.

93. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 8991, wherein said pocket is internally disposed within said flexible binding strap member.

94. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 8991, wherein said flexible binding strap member includes a buckle mounted to an outer portion thereof, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first end of the second strap member.

95. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 94, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the second strap member for incremental adjustment of the second strap member.

96. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 8991, wherein the first strap member is a mounting strap and the second strap member is an engagement strap.

97-98. (Canceled)

99. (Currently amended) An apparatus for engaging a snowboarding boot, the apparatus being securable to a first strap member and further being releasably connectable to a second strap member, the apparatus comprising:

a flexible strap member configured and arranged to be connected to the second strap member to adjust the relative positions of the flexible strap member and the second strap member and to conform at least the flexible strap member to a portion of the surface of the snowboarding boot, said flexible strap member including a pocket which is configured and arranged to movably receive a first end of the first strap member therein; and

the apparatus further comprising the first strap member, said first strap member having a first end configured and arranged to be received within said pocket, The apparatus according to claim 98, wherein said first strap member is a variable position first strap member having a plurality of holes therein.

100. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 99, wherein said first strap member is secured within said pocket by at least one fastener which extends through one of the plurality of holes within said first strap member.

101. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 9799, wherein said pocket is internally disposed within said flexible strap member.

102. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 9799, wherein said flexible strap member includes a buckle mounted to an outer portion thereof, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first end of the second strap member.

103. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 102, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the second strap member for incremental adjustment of the second strap member.

104. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 9799, wherein the first strap member is a mounting strap and the second strap member is an engagement strap.

105. (Previously presented) A binding strap for securing a snowboarding boot within a binding base, the binding strap being mountable to the base and releasably connectable to an engagement strap extending from the base, the binding strap comprising:

a boot-engaging strap member configured and arranged to be releasably connected to the engagement strap and to secure the snowboarding boot to the base, the boot-engaging strap member having a contour; and

a mounting strap having a first section releasably securable to said boot-engaging strap member via at least one fastener and a second section configured and arranged to engage the binding base, said first section being disposed closer to a first end of said mounting strap than to a second end of said mounting strap;

wherein said boot-engaging strap member and said mounting strap are moveable relative to each other so that a length of said binding strap is selectively adjustable by a user in one of a plurality of positions, at least one of said boot-engaging strap member and said mounting strap

having a hole, the hole being adapted to receive a fastener to releasably secure said first section of said mounting strap to said boot-engaging strap member in one of said plurality of positions; and

wherein, when said mounting strap is secured to said boot-engaging strap member, said first end of said mounting strap conforms to said contour of said boot-engaging strap member.

106. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 105, wherein said contour of said boot-engaging strap member conforms to a contour of the snowboarding boot when said boot-engaging strap member secures the snowboarding boot in the binding.

107. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 105, wherein said contour of said boot-engaging strap member is pre-shaped so as to conform to a contour of the snowboarding boot.

108. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 105, wherein said boot-engaging strap member includes a buckle mounted thereto, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first section of the engagement strap.

109. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 108, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the first section of the engagement strap for incremental adjustment of the binding strap.

110. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 109, wherein the first section of the engagement strap includes a plurality of serrations, and wherein said buckle is adjustably engagable with the plurality of serrations.

111. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 105, wherein a portion of said mounting strap is insertable through a portion of said boot-engaging strap member such that when said mounting strap is secured to said boot-engaging strap member, said first end of said mounting strap conforms to said contour of said boot-engaging strap member.

112. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 105, further comprising means for, when said mounting strap is secured to said boot-engaging strap member, conforming said first end of said mounting strap to a contour of said boot-engaging strap member.

113. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 111, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes an opening, said portion of said mounting strap being insertable through said opening.

114. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 113, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes top and bottom walls that defines a top and a bottom of said opening.

115. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 114, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes sides extending between said top and bottom walls.

116. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 115, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes an end extending between said top and bottom walls so that said opening is open only on one end.

117. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 113, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes sides.

118. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 113, wherein said opening comprises a slit.

119. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 113, in combination with the binding.